



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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BILL FINCH
Mayor

May 11, 2015

TO THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

There will be a Public Hearing of the City of Bridgeport's CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE, to be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at 6:00 PM, at Littlefield Recital Hall, University of Bridgeport, Iranistan and University Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

PUBLIC HEARING OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MAY 20, 2015

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to elicit opinions of Bridgeport residents regarding: (1) the Resolution of the City Council regarding the Bridgeport Harbor Station and the "phase-out" of coal-fired electricity generation at the Bridgeport Harbor Station at the earliest possible date" and (2) the terms and provisions of a community environmental benefit agreement as anticipated by C.G.S. §22a-20a(c). Such agreements address the issue of mitigation of the impact of the construction of a new combined cycle power plant. The Public Hearing will consider ideas pertaining to "...on-site and off-site improvements, activities and programs, including, but not limited to: funding for activities, such as environmental education, diesel pollution reduction, construction of biking and walking trails, staffing for parks, urban forestry, support for community gardens or any other negotiated benefits for the environment in the environmental justice community".

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Torres
Secretary
Citizen Advisory Committee

cc: A. Nunn, CAO
A. Wood, Chief of Staff
R. Felipe, Deputy Chief of Staff
L. Daniels, Director Neighborhood Initiatives
Members of the Citizen Advisory Committee

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 P.M. by Adrienne Houel, Committee Chair. A quorum was not present. No action was taken by the Committee during the meeting. The following members were present:

Present (9)

Hon. Jack Banta
131st District

George Estrada, Vice Chair
Adrienne Houel, Chair

Rev. Carl McCluster

Sharon Lewis
Chris Phelps

Hon. Denese Taylor-Moye,
131st District

Elizabeth Torres, Secretary
Adam Wood

Absent (5)

Hon. Howard Austin, Sr.,
131st District

Rep. Jack Hennessey

Bill Malone

Hon. Mike Marella
138th District

Cathleen Simpson

Pending Vacancy (1)

Onte Johnson Vacated Seat

Public Hearing Called to Order at 6:15

The Chair, Adrienne Houel started meeting by providing the purpose of the committee created by the Mayor which includes: 1) work with the City and PSEG to transition coal plant to natural gas; and 2) negotiate community benefits agreement and advise Mayor on the kinds of investments that should be made with funding provided.

She also provided an overview of the PSEG plan. She shared that PSEG negotiated a community benefits agreement with New Haven and a \$10,000,000 investment was made to support community projects. Finally the Chair requested public opinion regarding the potential funding of the Environmental Community Benefits Agreement.

There were no comments.

The Secretary, Elizabeth Torres suggested that the Committee share with the audience with the ideas being proposed. **Rev. Carl McCluster** noted that the job training proposed should include all jobs not just environmentally focused job. **The Chair** agreed and suggested we think about job training more broadly.

Carmen Nieves suggested that Information re: job qualifications are provided before the jobs are available so it's not the date of hearing that residents are being informed. This will allow residents to better compete for jobs available. **Sharon Lewis** noted that in Hartford, the City required that PSEG provide opportunities to low income residents. **Councilmember Denese Taylor-Moye** concurred re: jobs but also emphasized the importance of training. There was a discussion about how to include in the agreement. **The Chair** agreed that this should be written into agreement with PSEG.

Chris Phelps asked Sierra Club staff, if PSEG closed down and a new plant was not proposed, what are proposed reuses? Sierra Club suggested clean energy activities. In addition, he noted to identify mechanisms where the state funds a fund are used to help support tax revenue for municipalities.

Sierra Club staff believes that PSEG will be successful in next bid. The Sierra Club noted that it does not support fossil fuel expansion facility in Bridgeport. The staff will provide documentation and data re: impact of coal plan on Bridgeport. PSEG have been operating a coal plan for a long time. In response to council of early retirement of coal plan and instead PSEG come back with a fossil fuel expansion. PSEG is squeezing out clean energy sources. Date certain retirement of coal plant. 1. For health of residents 2. Improve energy markets. There was a comment about how to share data and other documents about different perspectives. **Rev. McCluster** concerned that if the committee decides to take this responsibility on he's concerned that information will be bias.

Rev. McCluster reminded committee purpose of hearing is to engage residents in the community benefits agreement. He suggested that funding of an ongoing committee to discuss environment issues be added to the benefits agreement. Sierra Club was in support.

It was noted the lack of resident engaged and City wide neighborhood participation. There was some concern that there was not enough time to outreach and marketing. **Ms. Lewis** suggested that the committee develop an outreach plan. She also noted that the material be translated in plain language and that the location be easily accessible.

Ms. Nieves suggested investing in the minority business office for outreach to minority businesses and residents for hiring so that contractors and residents can compete for jobs. She requested a referral system.

The Vice Chair, George Estrada, asked for help in getting the word out. We need help. His biggest take away was the need for jobs and job training. **Ms. Lewis** suggested hiring goals in agreement. Suggested WEBEX and use of other technology so people can login and participate from home. She also suggested a fund that entities can apply to.

The Secretary suggested the City hiring a compliance mechanism.

Adam Wood noted that the City does have a compliance consultant. He also suggested Workplace as a potential partner for job training. He noted that the City wants more public input, is open to any suggestion for getting the word out. More public hearings will be scheduled. We really want to support the community's ideas. The City is pushing for a date certain for transition of coal plant.

The Vice Chair noted that everything is on the table but not all the ideas will be implemented. Common thread is jobs.

Paul Boucher asked for clarity re: purpose of committee and hearing. **Mr. Wood** responded highlighting purpose of committee 1) transition coal plant to natural gas 2) negotiation community **Ms.**

Nieves asked if this agreement be used as standard for other developments. **Mr. Wood** noted that each development has different triggers and legal requirements.

The Vice Chair suggested that **Steve Mednick** provide the Committee with City Minority Hiring Ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL